RESEARCH SUMMARY

forest sciences
NELSON FOREST REGION

May 1993 RS–012

■ Toward Strategies for Managing *Armillaria Ostoyae*

Introduction to the Armillaria Steering Committee and the Research Working Group

INTRODUCTION

Armillaria ostoyae is identified as a serious pest in the southern interior forests of British Columbia (Morrison 1991). A recent survey of Douglas-fir plantations in the Arrow and Kootenay Lake Forest Districts (ICH biogeoclimatic zone) found that many of these sites will not reach free growing status. Armillaria root disease was identified as a major contributor to this set-back (Hopkins and Stewart 1992).

Over the past decade provincial and regional pathologists have completed considerable research on the biology of Armillaria, and have initiated preliminary research into some management strategies for controlling the spread of this disease (Morrison 1993). Additional research on the biology of this fungus has been identified as fundamental to the development of control strategies. This research needs to be conducted in tandem with studies investigating the response of Armillaria to the various treatment options and the effects of these treatments on a range of resource values.

In the Nelson Forest Region, Armillaria is acknowledged as an important management issue. Two working groups have been formed to facilitate communication on procedures, policy and research relating to the management of Armillaria infected stands. Brief introductions to each group are provided below:

NELSON REGION ARMILLARIA STEERING COMMITTEE

In January of 1993, this committee was formed to provide coordination and communication between Regional and District Managers on current policy related to the management of Armillaria. The Terms of Reference of this management steering committee are:

1. To identify, implement, and review procedures and policy relating to the management of Armillaria Root Disease;
2. To ensure practices relating to root disease management are supported; and
3. To review research plans of the Armillaria Research Working Group.

Members of the steering committee include the Regional Forestry Manager, Silviculture and

***Armillaria ostoyae* fruiting bodies on Douglas-fir**

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Forest Sciences Staff Officers, Forest Health personnel, and two District Silviculturists.

1993-94 activities include:

- Review the Nelson Region Armillaria Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); and
- Establish time frame and procedures for the implementation of the SOP.

ARMILLARIA RESEARCH WORKING GROUP

In December of 1992, the Armillaria Research Working Group was formed to provide a forum for communication and cooperation between researchers and field practitioners involved in the research or management of Armillaria. The Terms of Reference of the working group are:

1. To outline, prioritize, and undertake an integrated research program to address resource management objectives in Armillaria infected stands;
2. To promote and facilitate the distribution of historical and current research results to regional and district staff and other clients;
3. To identify future research needs and directions; and
4. To provide ongoing recommendations to the Nelson Region Armillaria Steering Committee regarding stand management options, based on research trials.

Working group members currently include personnel from the Ministry of Forests (Nelson Region Forest Sciences and Silviculture sections; Kamloops and Cariboo Regional pathologists; Silviculture Branch; Forest Districts); Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks; Forestry Canada; forest industry Licensees; and research contractors. To ensure the size of the working group remains functional, membership is divided into active and semi-active participants. Membership status will depend on the required expertise for current projects. All members are encouraged to review meeting minutes and bring their issues to the attention of the working group.

1993-94 activities include:

- A critical review of literature on the biology and stand management strategies for the control of Armillaria. This document will review current knowledge while identifying and prioritizing research needs. Local trials will be summarized in an appendix.
- A one-day Armillaria workshop in conjunction with summer SISCO 1993. This workshop will provide an opportunity for field practitioners and researchers to discuss management issues and concerns.
- Integrated research addressing Armillaria management issues.
- Participation in the development of an Armillaria training module initiated by the Nelson Region Silviculture Section.

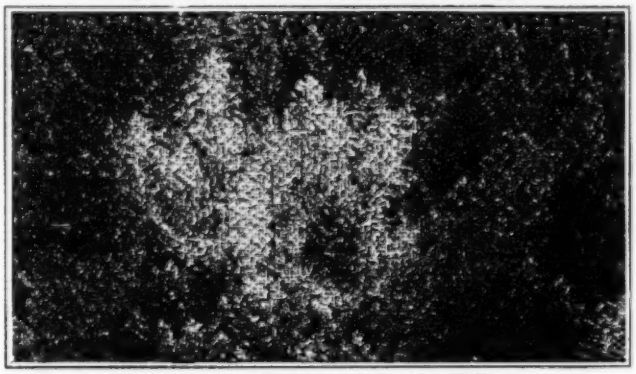
Updates on the activities of the Armillaria Research Working Group will be provided through the Forest Sciences Research Summary series and other publications.

LITERATURE CITED

Morrison, D.J. 1993. Pers. comm.

Morrison, D.J., H. Merler, and D. Norris. 1991. *Detection, recognition and management of Armillaria and Phellinus root diseases in the southern interior of British Columbia*. FRDA Report No. 179. B.C. Min. For., Victoria, B.C. 25 pp.

Hopkins, K. and R. Stewart. 1992. *Root disease impact analysis in fir plantations of the Arrow and Kootenay Lake timber supply areas*. Internal report, Nelson Forest Region, B.C. Min. For., Nelson, B.C. 12 pp.



Distinctive Armillaria centre in the IDF zone, Invermere Forest District.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

On the Nelson Region Armillaria Steering Committee and its activities, contact:

Dave Oswald (Chairperson), Regional Staff Manager, Forestry (354-6204); or
Don Norris, Silviculture Pathologist (354-6143).

On the Armillaria Research Working Group and its activities, contact:

Gerry Davis (Chairperson, Armillaria Research Working Group), Assistant Research Pedologist (354-6707); or
Deborah DeLong (Working Group Extension) Assistant Research Silviculturist (354-6708).